

APRIL 5, 2024

GOOD NEWS

EDITION NEWSLETTER



Photo Credit: Jaime Valdez, Columbia County Spotlight with the Pamplin Media Group

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: MEET RACHAEL SARA, OUR 2024 AMAZING EDUCATOR!

We are thrilled to announce and celebrate an incredible achievement within our educational community. Rachael Sara, one of our esteemed Early Childhood Education teachers at St. Helens High School, has been recognized as a '2024 Amazing Educator.' This recognition is a testament to Rachael's unwavering dedication, innovative teaching methods, and profound impact on the lives of our students.

Rachael's commitment to excellence in education is evident in everything she does. Her passion for nurturing young minds and fostering a love for learning has left an indelible mark on our school and community. Through her tireless efforts and creative approach to teaching, Rachael has not only inspired her students but also her colleagues, embodying the true spirit of an exceptional educator.

We invite you to read Rachael's inspiring story, which delves into her journey, accomplishments, and the profound connections she has forged with her students. You can find the full story [HERE](#).

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Rachael Sara on this well-deserved recognition. Her dedication and commitment serve as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the profound impact educators can have on shaping the future.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Scott Keith for capturing Rachael's story so eloquently and to Jaime Valdez, Columbia County Spotlight with the Pamplin Media Group, for providing the captivating imagery that accompanies it.

Please join us in celebrating Rachael Sara and her achievements.

In this edition:

Amazing Educator: Rachael Sara

If I Were Mayor Student Contest

Capture the Legacy: Photo Contest

Calendar Changes (2023/2024)

District Listening Session

Kindergarten Welcome Open House

Assistant Principal Appreciation Week

School Schedule Changes (2024/2025)

Library Week (April -7- April 13)

Multilingual Family Event

District Mission:

Strengthening Our Community
Through Exceptional Schools

District Vision:

St. Helens School District inspires
all students to learn, connect,
and commit to a thriving future.

LEARN
CONNECT
COMMIT



“IF I WERE MAYOR” Student Contest

Congratulations to Glory Beaudoin, Danielle Jesse, and Hope Vue for their outstanding achievements in the Mayor Student Contest!

In the 4th/5th grade poster category, Glory Beaudoin's creativity and talent have earned her a well-deserved first place. Additionally, we are excited to announce that Danielle Jesse and Hope Vue tied for second place with their exceptional submissions, showcasing their dedication and artistic abilities.

Their remarkable accomplishments reflect not only their individual talents but also their hard work and commitment to excellence.

Congratulations!



CAPTURE THE LEGACY: ST. HELENS HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY PHOTO CONTEST!

As we eagerly await the grand opening of our new high school, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the **"Capture the Legacy: St. Helens High School History"** Photo Contest, grasping the rich history of St. Helens High School. We are inviting our community to contribute to the creation of a captivating photo display that will adorn the entryway of our new school, showcasing the moments and memories that have made St. Helens High School special throughout the years.

Capture the essence of St. Helens High School's history. Whether it's a snapshot from a memorable event, a candid classroom moment, or a cherished image from years past, we want to see it all! We are seeking photo submissions to add to our photo display and expand on the history of St. Helens High School. ***Specifically, we are seeking older photos from the 1885 - 1983 date range***, but all photos will be accepted.

Submission Guidelines:

- Submit your photo(s) online via email to Director of Communications Stacey Mendoza at staceym@sthelens.k12.or.us or submit a physical copy at St. Helens School District 474 North 16th Street - St. Helens, OR 97051 by Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 4:00 pm. ***No late submissions will be accepted.***
- Please include a brief description or caption for each photo, highlighting its significance (including the year the photo was taken).

Categories:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • 1900-1910 | • 1930-1940 | • 1960-1970 | • 1990-2000 |
| • 1910-1920 | • 1940-1950 | • 1970-1980 | • 2000-2010 |
| • 1920-1930 | • 1950-1960 | • 1980-1990 | • 2010-2020 |

We believe that each photo holds a piece of the incredible story of St. Helens High School. By participating in this contest, you are not only contributing to the visual tapestry of our school but also becoming a part of its living history.

For the selection process, prizes, and terms and conditions, please see our 'News' section on our webpage [HERE](#).

CALENDAR CHANGES

Current
2023/2024
School Year



Like many other schools nearby, the St. Helens School District had to close for four days in January due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, this resulted in a loss of valuable instructional time within our district.

To ensure that our students receive the necessary educational opportunities, we have made adjustments to our 2023/2024 school calendar.

Rather than extending the school year, we have opted to cancel the last two early release days. This decision allows us to utilize that time effectively to make up for the missed instruction.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate these adjustments to ensure the best possible learning experience for our students.

Revised dates:

Wednesday,
May 29, 2024
NO EARLY RELEASE

Wednesday,
June 5, 2024
NO EARLY RELEASE

Additionally, please note that this school year's last Wednesday early release day will now be May 22, 2024.

[Community
Calendar Link](#)

DISTRICT LISTENING SESSION



Thank you to those who were able to join us for our District Listening Session at Lewis & Clark Elementary. It is always a great opportunity when we can actively engage with students and families to have an open discussion time.



THANK YOU!

We have one final District Listening Session for the 2023/2024 school year, which will be held at St. Helens Middle School.

Next District Listening Session

- Thursday
- May 2, 2024
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- St. Helens Middle School

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome

MAY 1ST 5:30 PM -7:00 PM

Columbia City
Elementary

Lewis & Clark
Elementary

McBride
Elementary



Students must be 5 years old by **September 1, 2024**, to enroll.

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Kindergarten Welcome Open House, set to take place on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. This event is designed to warmly welcome our newest additions to the St. Helens School District family - our incoming kindergarten students and their families!

We're here to make your journey into kindergarten enrollment as smooth as possible. If you're unsure about which school your child should attend based on your address, don't hesitate to reach out to our Central Office at 503-397-3085. Our dedicated staff will be more than happy to assist you.

At this special event, families will have the opportunity to embark on an exciting journey through our elementary schools, where they'll discover the vibrant learning environments awaiting their little ones. Here's a sneak peek of what's in store:

- **Guided School Tours:** Explore the classrooms, playgrounds, and facilities where your child will laugh, learn, and grow.
- **School Bus Adventure:** Hop aboard and experience a fun-filled ride on one of our school buses - an exciting glimpse into our students' daily commute!
- **Student Activities:** Dive into engaging hands-on activities specially crafted to ignite your child's curiosity and creativity.
- **Registration Information:** Learn everything you need about the enrollment process, including online registration details.

Remember to bring along the following documents for registration:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of address
- Immunization records

Please note that to enroll, students must be five years old by September 1, 2024.

Wednesday | May 1, 2024 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION WEEK



MARK JANKE

Assistant Principal at St. Helens Middle School.

NICOLE HILTON

Assistant Principal at St. Helens High School.



TED HIRNING

Assistant Principal St. Helens High School.



ROBBY PLOWMAN

Assistant Principal St. Helens High School.



2024/2025

SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGES



Throughout the past year, the St. Helens School District has been dedicated to fostering open communication and collaboration with our community. We embarked on a journey to gather insights and feedback on our bell and bus schedules, recognizing the importance of ensuring that our schedules align with the needs and preferences of our students, staff, and families.

Your invaluable input, provided through surveys and engaging discussions during our District Listening sessions, has been instrumental in shaping the decisions we make. We are pleased to announce that based on this feedback and careful consideration, the St. Helens School District will be implementing a new schedule for school start and end times for the upcoming academic year.

Here are the revised start and end times for our schools:

- ***Columbia City Elementary: 7:45 am – 2:15 pm***
- ***Lewis & Clark Elementary: 7:45 am – 2:15 pm***
- ***McBride Elementary: 7:45 am – 2:15 pm***
- ***St. Helens High School: 8:20 am – 3:20 pm***
- ***St. Helens Middle School: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm***

This updated schedule not only reflects our commitment to optimizing learning opportunities for our students but also aligns with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Research indicates that older students benefit from later start times, promoting academic success and overall mental well-being. Conversely, for our younger students, earlier start times have been shown to have no measurable negative impact on academic outcomes.

We are confident that these adjustments will contribute to a more conducive learning environment for all our students, enabling them to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

As we embark on this journey together, we remain deeply grateful for your ongoing support and collaboration. Together, we will continue to uphold our district vision of inspiring all students to learn, connect, and commit to a thriving future and our mission of strengthening our community through exceptional schools.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the success of our students and our community. We look forward to an exciting and fulfilling 2024/2025 school year!

UPCOMING
EVENTS

NATIONAL

LIBRARY WEEK

Ready

Set

Library!

NATIONAL
LIBRARY WEEK

April 7-13, 2024

ALA



NATIONAL
LIBRARY
WEEK

April 7 – April 13



National Library Week is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support.

The theme for National Library Week 2024 is "**Ready, Set, Library.**"

**ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT
INVITES YOU TO:**

MULTILINGUAL FAMILY EVENT

We want your Opinion!

**ST. HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITES YOU TO A
LISTENING SESSION, Q&A AND DINNER**

**WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 11
WHERE: LEWIS AND CLARK ELEMENTARY
TIME: 5:30PM-7:30PM**

Special Guests- Community Partners:
YouthEra, Head Start, Columbia Health, Parks
and Recreation and Columbia Pacific CCO.

ACTIVITIES, CHILD CARE, COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND
DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED. FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT JENNIFER B. AT 503-366-7227
OR ROSA G. AT 503-366-7238

